

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite material comprising consisting essentially of a plurality of cores of polycrystalline ultra-hard material dispersed in a matrix, the matrix comprising consisting essentially of a further polycrystalline ultra-hard material of a grade or type which is different from that of the material of the cores.
2. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein [[the]] each said polycrystalline ultra-hard material is selected from the group of materials consisting of polycrystalline diamond (PCD) or polycrystalline cubic boron nitride (PcBN).
3. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 2, wherein the cores are provided selectively as individual particles or in the form of granules.
4. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are made from a fine-grained PCD grade material and the matrix of a coarser PCD grade material than that of the cores.
5. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are made from a coarser PCD grade material and the matrix of a fine-grained PCD grade material.
6. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 4, wherein the fine-grained PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 0.1 to about 20 microns.
7. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to any one of claims 4 to 6 claim 4, wherein the coarser PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 10 to about 100 microns.

8. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores and matrix are made from the same type of said polycrystalline ultrahard material, and the particle size of the material of said cores differs from that of the material of said matrix by between about 5 and about 70 microns.

9. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores and the matrix are made from the same polycrystalline ultrahard material with different binder phases for each.

10. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are formed of PCD and the matrix of PcbN type material.

11. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores are formed from PcbN type material.

12. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 1, wherein the cores and matrix are each made from mixtures of two types of polycrystalline ultrahard materials, wherein said mixtures are different from each other.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a composite material as defined in claim 1, which includes the steps of:

- (i) providing a plurality of cores of said polycrystalline ultra-hard material or components for making a polycrystalline ultra-hard material;
- (ii) providing components for making a polycrystalline ultra-hard material of a different grade than that of the cores and a binder; and
- (iii) consolidating the cores[[,]] and components ~~and binder~~ to produce said composite material.

Claims 14-18 (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 5, wherein the fine-grained PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 0.1 to about 20 microns.

20. (Previously Presented) A composite material according to claim 5, wherein the coarser PCD grade material has grains having a grain size in the range of about 10 to about 100 microns.

21. (New) A composite material according to claim 10, wherein said P_cBN matrix encompasses cubic boron nitride grains that are sintered to themselves, and selectively, any number of ceramic phases comprising nitrides, borides, carbides, carbonotrides of aluminum, titanium, tungsten, hafnium, zirconium, silicon, niobium and tantalum.